

Chowchilla Water District

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Board of Directors

Dan Maddalena ♦ Michael Mandala ♦ Vince Taylor ♦ Kole M. Upton ♦ Mark Wolfshorndl
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December 23, 2010

RE: Madera Region IRWMP Planning Grant

Dear Department of Water Resources Representatives:

The California Department of Water Resources did not recommend the Madera Region IRWMP for the Planning Grant funding. Many stakeholders involved in the Madera Region IRWMP application development process have determined that this result is not sufficiently justified and believe that it continues the historical neglect of the San Joaquin Valley. We are requesting that you reconsider your application scoring review and have the application re-evaluated.

The stakeholders in the Madera Region have been working for many years to provide for the wise use of our natural resources. In 2008 the Madera Region, after many years of stakeholders meetings and blood sweat and tears, developed an IRWMP that covered the entire region, beginning at the source of our water in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and ending on the valley floor where the majority of the water is conserved. We then set out to implement the projects in our plan. However, the state legislature decided that the framework for an IRWMP needed to address additional areas such as DAC's, global warming and formation of a RWMG. So we set aside implementation and began working on an MOU for the RWMG and applied for a grant to update our IRWMP. Since the entire Madera Region qualifies as a DAC (or DAR disadvantaged region) it was not anything new to address this issue.

Following are responses to the scoring criterion.

**Work Plan** The grant application clearly states that a multitude of meetings will be held to reach out to the stakeholders in the region to inform them of the specifics of the proposed changes to the IRWMP and to get their input. This is in addition to the presentation to the RWMG. Attendance of statewide meetings put on by DWR are critical to learning what is expected by DWR in the preparation of the revisions to our IRWMP.

**DAC Involvement** The entire Madera Region qualifies as a DAC (or DAR disadvantaged region). All of the meetings with the stakeholders in the region are meetings with DAC's. Each of the members of the Madera Region Regional Water Management Group represents DAC stakeholders. Apparently the reviewers missed this fact.

**Schedule** There are some inconsistencies in the schedule with the budget. Unfortunately in the rush to prepare the application (with a pro bono grant writer) these inconsistencies occurred and were not noticed. The inconsistencies do not merit rejection of the application and are easily reconcilable. The schedule is reasonable. The person we have in mind to conduct the numerous stakeholder meetings is very capable and gained lots of experience working with the stakeholders during the preparation and successful completion of our 2008 IRWMP.

**Budget** Obtaining input and collaboration from all the stakeholders in the region requires reaching out to the various stakeholders and communities that will not have the time or inclination to attend a meeting that is over one hour from where they live. The travel time from Oakhurst to the City of Madera is over one hour. The rates charged are reasonable.

**Program Preference** The IRWMP prepared in 2008 addresses most if not all of the program preferences. The application states that we will address all the program preferences. I am not sure what is required to convey “**certainty**” that we will do what we say we will do.

You consideration of our response to your evaluation of the Madera Region IRWMP for the Planning Grant funding is appreciated

Sincerely.

Douglas Welch  
General Manager